



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot *Wilmington, DE*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

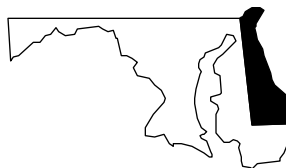
**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the City of Wilmington as a Brownfields Pilot. Industrial development in Wilmington began during the industrial revolution of the 1800s and was centered along the Brandywine and Christina Rivers. Recent studies by the Delaware Brownfields Assessment Program have indicated that most of the brownfields located along these rivers are contaminated. Brownfields areas include Cherry Island, the East Seventh Street Peninsula, the Port of Wilmington vicinity, South Madison Street, Bell Alley, Browntown, and Todds Lane. In addition, smaller isolated commercial and industrial properties are potentially contaminated. The communities adjacent to these brownfields areas are comprised of low-to-moderate income families experiencing higher than average unemployment. Poverty rates in these areas range from 12 to 66 percent, and unemployment ranges from 6 to 20 percent.

There are approximately 1,750 acres of vacant, abandoned, under-used, and contaminated properties in the city. This reduction in the area available for development limits the amount of tax revenue and employment opportunities that can be generated. The City will conduct an inventory and environmental assessment of the properties as part of the City's plans leading to redevelopment and revitalization of its urban core.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Wilmington, Delaware*

**Date of Award:**  
April 1997

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Site Profile:** The pilot will focus on 1,750 acres of abandoned or under-used contaminated industrial property along the Brandywine and Christina Rivers.

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<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## OBJECTIVES

Wilmington's objectives for the pilot are to create an inventory of brownfields sites; increase neighborhood capacity to participate in redevelopment decision-making; plan for cleanup funding; and conduct outreach activities to educate site owners and potential developers, investors, and lenders about brownfields redevelopment incentives.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Developing a cleanup and redevelopment planning database that includes an inventory of all industrial and commercial sites at which contamination may be present;
- Encouraging neighborhood participation in redevelopment planning and environmental justice activities; and
- Establishing a brownfields remediation loan program and working to secure Community Reinvestment Act funding for the program.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.